

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A balloon catheter (1) comprising a catheter shaft (2), ~~at the~~ having a guiding wire lumen with a distal end (3) of which ~~with an inflatable balloon (4) is arranged and at the a proximal end (5) of which~~ with a connecting piece (6) ~~is arranged;~~
a guiding wire disposed in the (7) ~~which can be passed through a~~ guiding wire lumen (8) of the catheter shaft (2) from the proximal end (5) to the distal end (3) and through the balloon (4); and
an inflation/deflation ~~inflation or deflation~~ lumen (9) extending from the proximal end (5) of the catheter shaft (2) to the balloon (4),
~~characterized in that~~
a portion (10) of the catheter shaft (2) having a selectable length (L) and extending from the proximal end (5) is provided with at least one reinforcing pipe (11).
2. (Currently Amended) The balloon catheter according to claim 1,
~~characterized in that wherein~~
the guiding wire lumen (8) is extending in the reinforcing pipe (11).
3. (Currently Amended) The balloon catheter according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~,
~~characterized in that wherein~~
the inflation/deflation lumen (9) is extending in the reinforcing pipe (11).
4. (Currently Amended) The balloon catheter according to ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~, ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein
the reinforcing pipe (11) is made of metal, in particular stainless steel.

5. (Currently Amended) The balloon catheter according to ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~, ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein

a transitional portion ~~(15)~~ between the reinforcing pipe ~~(11)~~ and a second catheter shaft portion ~~(13)~~ is provided with a kink protection ~~(14)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The balloon catheter according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein

the kink protection ~~(14)~~ is formed as a case ~~(14)~~ arranged on the catheter shaft ~~(2)~~ and exceeding the transitional portion.

7. (Currently Amended) The balloon catheter according to claim 5 ~~or 6~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein

the kink protection ~~(14)~~ is formed as a metal spring bridging the transitional portion in the wall of the catheter shaft ~~(2)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The balloon catheter shaft according to claim 5 ~~or 6~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein

the kink protection ~~(14)~~ is formed as a metal spring arranged in the inflation/deflation ~~or deflation~~ lumen ~~(9)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The balloon catheter according to ~~one of claims 1 to 8~~, ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein

a stent is ~~may be~~ disposed on the balloon ~~(4)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The balloon catheter according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein

the catheter shaft ~~(2)~~ comprises two concentric pipes ~~(11, 13 or 12)~~ which are connected in order to increase the pushability.

11. (Currently Amended) The balloon catheter according to claim 5,
~~characterized in that wherein~~
the kink protection (14) is formed as a nylon tube coating.
12. (Currently Amended) The balloon catheter according to ~~claims 1 to 10,~~
~~characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~
the reinforcing pipe (11) consists of plastics.
13. (Currently Amended) The balloon catheter according to claim 4,
~~characterized in that wherein~~
the metal reinforcing pipe (11) is provided with an inner coating made of plastics.
14. (Currently Amended) The balloon catheter according to claim 1,
~~characterized in that wherein~~
the guiding wire lumen (8) and the inflation/deflation lumen (9) are extending in the
reinforcing pipe (11).
15. (New) The balloon catheter according to claim 14, wherein
a transitional portion between the reinforcing pipe and a second catheter shaft portion
is provided with a kink protection.
16. (New) The balloon catheter according to claim 15, wherein
the kink protection is formed as a case arranged on the catheter shaft and exceeding
the transitional portion.
17. (New) The balloon catheter according to claim 15, wherein
the kink protection is formed as a metal spring bridging the transitional portion in the
wall of the catheter shaft.

18. (New) The balloon catheter shaft according to claim 15, wherein the kink protection is formed as a metal spring arranged in the inflation/deflation lumen.

19. (New) The balloon catheter according to claim 16, wherein the kink protection is formed as a metal spring bridging the transitional portion in the wall of the catheter shaft.

20. (New) The balloon catheter shaft according to claim 16, wherein the kink protection is formed as a metal spring arranged in the inflation/deflation lumen.